



Adhoc Committee on Farmland & Open Space

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 Phillis DeSaele
 Joan Flynn
 Leonard Haggerty
 Peggy A. Kennard
 Jonathan Lafferty
 Peter J. Lund
 Robert Mijac
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 Elizabeth M. Slinde
 Nancy M. White
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Direct Assistance to Local Municipalities

(continued)

- Design and mail a newsletter to local officials, consultants, and planning departments describing issues impacting Macomb County.
- Review new master plans to ensure compatibility along multi-jurisdiction borders.
- Assist communities in the preparation and submittal of grant applications to support Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Programs.
- Educate the farming community on the benefits of existing farmland preservation programs.

Lobbying Efforts

- Track new legislation related to smart growth planning, farmland preservation, and the redevelopment of older cities.
- Meet with legislators to discuss issues regarding agricultural preservation.
- Direct Macomb County's lobbyist to monitor legislation regulating or impacting agricultural preservation.
- Lobby the State of Michigan Legislature to change the method of assessing taxes on farmlands to (use-value) assessments.
- Lobby the State of Michigan Legislature to pass legislation allowing municipalities to implement Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Programs.



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Macomb County Policy Recommendations on Farmland and Open Space Preservation

Preservation



General Recommendations

- ▶ Recognize that any recommendations from the Macomb County Board of Commissioners will respect the authority of Local Home Rule to determine future use of the land.
- ▶ Recognize agriculture as a vital sector of Macomb County's economy.
- ▶ Develop a campaign to promote niche markets that are unique to Macomb County.
- ▶ Recognize the need for increased communication and coordinated planning among all local units of government.



One-Time Events

- ▶ Hold conferences in cooperation with Macomb County Planning and Economic Development Department, MSU Extension, the Water Quality Board, and the Health Department focusing on smart growth issues. Conferences will be held in different regions of the county and will reflect relevant geographic issues.
- ▶ Hold business forums for companies that specialize in greenhouse, sod and nursery crops.
- ▶ Hold business forums for companies that specialize in agri-tourism.
- ▶ Contact processing plants in the region to research current product promotion methods. Communicate this information to the local farming community.
- ▶ Research incentives for increasing the reuse of existing residential, commercial and industrial properties.

On-going Services

- ▶ Hold regularly scheduled meetings with local planners and planning consultants to discuss new planning legislation and planning tools.
- ▶ Retain and attract food processing operations.
- ▶ Assist local agri-businesses with marketing strategies that support value-added efforts on the part of producers.

- ▶ Support the expansion of the MSU Extension Farm Management Program, and the Small Business Development Center Program that assists local farmers in developing business plans for the future development of their operations.
- ▶ Develop a 2005 land use inventory that collects data on all uses of land.
- ▶ Assist in the redevelopment of Brownfield sites as another method of reducing pressure on the development of agricultural properties.
- ▶ Organize tours of Macomb County agri-business in order to better understand the impact of growth on farmland and open space preservation.

Direct Assistance to Local Municipalities

- ▶ Appoint two Macomb County representatives to the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Committee.
- ▶ Assist the farming community in the preparation and submittal of farmland preservation applications to the Michigan Department of Agriculture.
- ▶ Support and promote an annual MSU Extension Citizen Planner Program for Planning Commission Members, Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) members and the general public.

